

The River between Pittsburgh and Wheeling.

We made mistake yesterday in fixing the estimate of cost for thirteen dams, sufficient to maintain six feet of water in the river between this city and Pittsburgh, at \$13,000,000. We find, on referring to the report of Major Marshall, of the Engineer Corps of the United States Army, that the estimate of cost is only about \$2,600,000. This estimate includes dams at the following points, viz: just below Horseshoe Bend (about 6 miles below Pittsburgh) a dam of 1,500 feet; between Duff's and Merriman (8 1/2 miles below) one of 1,000 feet; below the Trip (13 miles from Pittsburgh) one of 1,500 feet; below Deadman's Island (15 1/2 miles from Pittsburgh) one of 1,300 feet; at Crow Island (21 miles from Pittsburgh) one of 1,750 feet; below Montgomery Island (23 1/2 miles from Pittsburgh) one of 1,000 feet; a mile below Georgetown Island, one of 1,300 feet; just below Baker's Island, one of 1,800 feet; a mile and a half below Black's Island, one of 1,700 feet; a mile above Steubenville bridge, one of 1,000 feet; at Cox's bar, one of 1,350 feet; at head of Pike Island, one of 1,700 feet; at Wheeling, one of "1,000 feet, plus 800 feet."

In all, the report includes 19,150 feet of dams between Pittsburgh and Wheeling, giving an average length to each of 1,473 feet.

We learn from Captain McLure that the Commissioners at their recent session recommended to Congress, as an experiment, an appropriation of \$600,000 for a lock and dam on the French method at Horseshoe Bend. The French method has been tried on the river Seine, Yonne, Marne, Meuse, and other French rivers, and is a success. The system in vogue there is known as the CHANOT method. It consists of a wicket, which, when in position, is a solid frame of timber about 34 feet wide and 13 feet high, sloping down stream and supported behind by a heavy iron prop and a small iron horse. The horse is hinged to the wicket and to the floor. The prop turns on the upper axle of the horse, as does also the wicket. The latter is not fastened to the floor except by the horse, and can swing around the upper axle of the latter when not held down by the pressure of the water. A series of such frames or panels make the dam. The intervals between the frames are about two inches, and if it is necessary to make the dam tight, these intervals can be covered. Usually the waste through them will be less than the discharge of the river, and therefore the level of the pool will not fall below the tops of the wickets.

The dam is thrown down by means of a long iron bar laid on top of the masonry base, extending from one shore to the other, and armed with projections or shoulders. By moving this rod a few feet, which is done from the abutment by proper gearing, the feet of the props are tripped successively, and the wickets fall into a shallow recess where they are below the reach of passing boats. The river is then in its natural condition, offering no obstacle to boats nor to the passage of floods. In the navigable barge passing projects higher than 3 feet below low-water line. On the weir the height of masonry is usually about 20 inches above low water.

The wickets are raised in succession by the use of a boat which works across the stream. It has a sheave in its bow, and a geared drum near the stern. The first wicket is raised by the boat being so placed that its bow projects beyond the abutment half the width of a wicket. The hoisting rope has a boat-hook fastened to its outer end. The man at the bow hooks the boat-hook over a handle at the lower end of the wicket, and the other man then winds up the rope. The wicket is thus raised, pulling up with it the horse and the prop. When the horse is at its proper elevation the prop drops into position. The wicket is still nearly horizontal, and if it is let go it will retain an inclined position with the water rushing under it. A slight push on its lower end brings it against the sill, and the water pressure holds it in place. After one wicket is raised the boat is pushed out the width of a wicket, supporting itself partly against the abutment and partly against the wicket first raised. This operation is continued until all the wickets are in place.

HARD TIMES AND THEIR CAUSE.—The Industrial Bulletin says the hard times are attributable to the extraordinary industrial revolution in England, which would, in any event, have had the effect to unsettle prices here, and to disturb the relations of capital and labor. It is a double misfortune that we began to feel the force of this momentous change in wages and the cost of production abroad, at a time when there was a temporary suspension of the banks, and a loss of confidence in money circles at home, and when it was impossible to accommodate ourselves to it or counteract it. The result has been an almost total cessation of demand for commodities which employ in their production of a vast number of skilled workmen, and the actual consumption has been restricted in a way that no one deemed possible. A spirit of economy had somewhat to do with this, but it was mainly created and is continued by the determination of business men to attempt no new enterprise, and to avoid, as far as possible, all expenses, until prices touch bottom, and they can tell what their investments will be worth.

This Democratic country press of Ohio almost unanimously supports Thurman against the interrupted assaults of the Cincinnati Enquirer, the "inflation wind bag" of the Pendleton school. As Thurman is an indefatigable advocate of metallic currency, this endorsement is significant. Can it be possible the Ohio Democracy are changing front on the currency question? In 1873 they were for the immediate resumption of specie payment; in 1873 they recognized the evils of an irredeemable currency; in 1874 they were for inflation, and in 1875, from the present surface indications, they will repudiate inflation and readopt the coin policy. As a financial acrobat, the Democratic party is a success. Something is up. Either a change of front on the finance or a stroke of policy is to take place.

The Intelligencer.

VOL. XXIII. WHEELING, WEST VA. WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 23, 1874---WITH SUPPLEMENT. NO. 70.

Renominated and Confirmed.
Among the nominations sent into the Senate for confirmation we notice the name of General T. M. HARRIS. The General's management of the Pension Agency in this city is highly satisfactory both to the recipients of the Government bounty and the officials at Washington. His nomination was confirmed.

THE INTELLIGENCER IN LEWIS COUNTY.
A gentleman who sends us a club of twenty-five subscribers from a postoffice in Lewis county, concludes his letter thus: "I wish you great success in your honest course, politically and financially. I have in this club eight thinking Democrats who are becoming suspicious of the truth and principles of the premium paper so elaborately circulated in our midst. I have frequently heard persons say, 'I care nothing for the paper nor its principles, but I want the premium.' We prefer to pay for truth."

PREVENTION OF CHURCH TO CHILDREN.—By unrelenting prosecutions of cruel owners, Mr. HENRY BENON has done much to ameliorate the condition of dumb animals. In the course of his constant search through New York for instances of the abuse of brutes, he has frequently come upon cases of inhuman treatment of children by parents, or those clad with parental authority. A few months ago he rescued a parentless little girl from aggravated servitude, and caused her unfeeling task-mistress, to whom she had been inhumanly indentured by the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, to be sentenced to imprisonment. To secure repetitions of this success, says the *Evening Star*, Mr. BENON has drawn a number of powerful gentlemen into a "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children," whose annual meeting takes place on the 28th of December. Its agents will traverse the city, and with particular frequency its most densely populated quarters, where strong drink was incessantly with the good impulses of the human heart, seeking the oppressors of children, that they may bring them within the grasp of the judiciary.

THE SCALE OF FLOUTATIONS.—Some people think that the effect of the fluctuations in our currency is ordinarily of no great consequence, forgetting entirely, as they do, the enormous amount of transactions based on the present issue of paper money. The Chicago Tribune has been at the pains of making a table to show as nearly as may be the extent of the country's operations which are influenced by the variability of the legal-tender. It looks thus:

National Bank Currency	\$ 350,000,000
Deposits to credit in National Banks	67,000,000
Deposits to credit in State Banks	900,000,000
Deposits to credit in Savings Banks	100,000,000
Deposits to credit in Agricultural Banks	100,000,000
Deposits to credit in Building and Loan Associations	1,000,000,000
Deposits to credit in Railroad Banks	1,000,000,000
Deposits to credit in Municipal Banks	1,000,000,000
Deposits to credit in National debt in bonds	1,793,000,000
Deposits to credit in Agricultural products on hand	1,000,000,000
Deposits to credit in Manufactured products for sale	1,250,000,000
Total	\$ 12,435,000,000

Hence for every one per cent. change in the value of greenbacks there is a change of \$124,350,000 in the market values, some up and some down, through the country, the effect of which, is not readily or fully comprehended, can be seen at a glance to be vast and so far as it is an unnecessary risk added to those which are inherent in business—disasters.

NOVEL RELIGIOUS BELIEF.—A new and novel religious belief, probably an outgrowth of the spiritualistic idea of materialization, is gaining converts in the northern counties of Ohio. It involves, too, an elaborate principle of metempsychosis. An outline of its teachings is as follows: The soul is immortal, beginning with the original creation of the universe and lasting forever. In the course of its existence it occupies a varied succession of bodies on earth. When disembodied by the death of its corporeal form, it hovers as an unseen power in the air until, by a subtle process of materialization, it forms for itself a new infantile body. This body it builds up by what we regard as the natural process of growth, and occupies it until death again frees it, when the same thing takes place again. While disembodied, the soul understands this scheme of existence, but when clothed in a form of flesh it loses the knowledge, except in those vague glimpses which people are supposed to have at times of some previous and different condition. The followers of the new religion call themselves Eternals, and their number is increasing rapidly. They believe that souls may advance or degenerate in attainment, rising high enough to take on the forms of men great in some particular, or falling low enough to animate drunkards, criminals, savages, or even animals. They do not believe the Bible or the Christian scheme of salvation; but they teach culture and morality as means of development for the soul, and as a training for a higher form of organization when the soul shall next materialize an earthly body.

JUVENILE JOYA.—Concerning a paragraph which recently appeared in the INTELLIGENCER, we extract the following from a New York paper: A new juvenile crime has been developed in Wheeling, W. Va. Five lads were arraigned before the Justice, charged with "rolling each other in the mud." The Court holding, perhaps, that cleanliness is next to godliness, ordered every individual boy to give bonds in \$500 not to roll any other boy in the slimy mud for six months to come. "Tidy mortals in Wheeling will rejoice at this ruling; but, alas! there is no law to prevent a boy from rolling himself in the slimy mud, and if there were, it would make no difference.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.—The Board of Education meets again on next Tuesday evening.

A CONNECTION.—In our report of the Court proceedings yesterday morning, the name of L. E. Hanson was mentioned through the blunder of a compositor. The correct name is L. E. Hamm, grocer.

TONS OF POSTAL CARDS WITHOUT ADDRESSES. are destroyed at the Dead Letter office, because people write their message first and then forget to address them.—All our Exchanges, but postal cards are not sent to the Dead Letter Office.

DAUGHTERS OF REBECCA.—At a meeting of Unity Lodge No. 19, Daughters of Rebecca, L. O. O. F., the following officers were elected: P. G., M. Emsheimer, Noble Grand; Sister Hannah Eberling, Vice Grand; Augusta Muller, Secretary; Sister Sophia Badke, Treasurer.

LOCKED UP.—Yesterday morning two of the girls in Madame Fader's female boarding house on 10th street quarreled and attempted to settle their difficulties with a good, square, rough and tumble fight. Grace Kaszy, upon information entered before the City Sergeant, was arrested and locked up. The pugilistic encounter will be duly ventilated this morning at the police court.

WE HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE LADIES wearing monogram garters, but when it comes to three-story hats at public entertainments, our amiability is slightly rattled.—*Intelligencer.*

GO TO, NOW, FOR SHAME'S SAKE. Do you mean to imply that the young ladies of Wheeling are in the habit of standing on their heads at public entertainments?—*Cumberland News.*

BUT, MY JOVE, YOU KNOW, OLD FELLAH, that would be so demd immodest, you know. It would, but Jove!

KANAWHA & CINCINNATI PACKET COMPANY.—The Secretary of the State of West Virginia has issued the following certificate of incorporation: Kanawha & Cincinnati Packet Company, organized for the purpose of owning, hiring, navigating and running steamboats for carrying passengers and freight, and for towing flatboats and barges laden with salt, iron, coal, etc., on the Kanawha and Ohio rivers. Principal office and place of business shall be at Charleston. Charter expires in 1894. Capital stock \$10,000. The incorporators are William E. Truslow, of Charleston, John V. Key, of Elkins, John C. H. Key, of Charleston, and John Ruffner, of Malden.

PEUNISIAN.—Mr. Charles Coen and wife, at their residence on the Island, celebrated their silver wedding on Monday evening.

JASPER V. MOORE, Clerk of the U. S. District Court, is registered at the McLure.

WESTON ought to be satisfied now with his great feet and give us all a rest.

FRED G. MAEDER, the dramatist and actor, who played a week's engagement in this city recently, is now manager of a theatre in St. Louis.

AS AN EVIDENCE of the enterprising character of the drug business in Bridgeport, and of our desire to develop the natural resources of that town, we simply announce that Bart Rowles has become the father of a fine young boy.

WE UNDERSTAND that Mrs. R. Hanna, late Principal of Washington Female Seminary, is quite ill from an attack of pneumonia.

TOM COCKEYNE'S Quadrille Band will leave this morning on the steamer Express for Charleston, to play for a Grand Ball to be given by the Junior Bachelor's Club of that place.

THE COURTS.—Circuit Court—Judge Melvin. The Circuit Court met yesterday, pursuant to adjournment.

J. MATTHEWS, Esq., was appointed Commissioner of this Court.

THE SESSION of yesterday was occupied by the argument of the motion for a new trial in the case of N. C. Arthur et al. vs. Franklin Insurance Co., Messrs. J. H. Good and Daniel Lamb for the motion, and Daniel Peck and R. G. Barr for the opposition. Adjourned to the usual hour this morning.

BENWOOD ITEMS.—We made a flying visit to the Benwood Iron Works yesterday and found that institution in full operation. This mill was built in 1853, and came into the possession of its present proprietors in 1864. There are twenty-one boiling furnaces and four heating furnaces, which furnish material for running 113 nail machines. The mill in its capacity for turning out nails stands only second to the Riverside Mill. The advantages for getting coal are equal to those of the other mills of this section of the Ohio Valley. The company make their own gas, which they find much cheaper than oil. For a number of years they manufactured their own kegs, but find it cheaper to rent their shop to contractors which has been done. The mill has been running constantly for the last year. The demand for its nails, like that of all the factories in this region, comes from all parts of the United States and Canada. Near four hundred hands are employed and the weekly turnout is an average of 53 to 54 hundred kegs. We noticed a two inch clinch nail which when annealed can be bent into any shape without breaking.

JAMES CARROLL, a roller at the Benwood Iron Works, was very severely burned on the right side of his face while running the rollers yesterday morning. The accident was caused by what is known as a "flash." Mr. Carroll was taken home, where medical assistance was promptly rendered.

"THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT" between the property holders and the non-property holders in relation to the incorporation of the new still continues. Those having property are opposed to it on the ground of increased taxation.

THE CITIZENS of Benwood are very anxious that the Street Car Company shall extend their line to Benwood. Besides being profitable to that company it is believed that many persons who now go to Benwood for supplies would patronize the markets and business houses of Wheeling.

THE REMAINS of the model barge of the "Ed Hobbs" sunk last winter by collision with the Benwood pier of the railroad bridge, is still lying wrapped like a shroud around the pier. Watermen are, however, removing from it much valuable timber.

BENWOOD is rendered almost impassable during inclement weather. The Mill Company endeavor to remedy the condition of the streets by clearing, but this in a short time only aids in the formation of dirt.

THE COAL AND COKE WORKS of John Haley, formerly the property of J. G. Nolan, are working full time. Large quantities of this coal is being shipped to towns and villages along the line of the B. & O. R. R. Mr. Haley is one of the largest institutions of the kind in the United States. It is at present out of blast. About two months ago it was discovered that the lining had burst out. The manufacture of pig was therefore stopped and the work of rebuilding the lining commenced. As yet the bottom is only complete.

THE COMPANY are waiting for bricks from Mt. George to complete the work. As the repairs are very extensive it is not presumed they will be complete and dry enough to "blow in" before the first of March. The company have an unlimited supply of quarried limestone, and of our desire to develop the natural resources of that town, we simply announce that Bart Rowles has become the father of a fine young boy.

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THE COURTS.—Circuit Court—Judge Melvin. The Circuit Court met yesterday, pursuant to adjournment.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The Board of Education met last night pursuant to adjournment. The following gentlemen answered to their names at roll call: Messrs. Bickel, Bowers, Crawford, Caldwell, Ellritzer, Hall, Hupp, Hubbard, Logan, Stewart, Scott, Wilson, Wheat.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.
The consideration of the three resolutions of the report of the Committee on Rules and Regulations, which were before the Board at the last meeting, at the time of adjournment, were taken up.

Resolved, That it is inconsistent with the true interest and meaning of Article 7 that pupils should be excused from attendance on school by either parents, or guardians, or teachers, for the purpose of taking lessons of any character whatever outside of the schools.

Mr. Wilson offered the following, to take the place of the above, as the third resolution in the report of the committee: **Resolved,** That when the teacher receives of a parent or guardian a written note stating the absence was necessary, he or she shall receive the same as satisfactory without question.

The resolution was objected to, and the one reported by the committee was adopted by the following vote, the ayes and nays being called for:

Ayes: Bickel, Bowers, Crawford, Caldwell, Ellritzer, Hall, Hupp, Logan, Stewart, Scott and Wheat.

Nays: Hubbard and Wilson.

Mr. Wilson's resolution was then adopted as a fourth resolution in the report of the committee, with the following amendment, offered by Dr. Logan:

Provided, However, that nothing in the resolution shall exempt the pupil, who shall from any cause whatever, except by sickness, be absent from school for five days during any consecutive four weeks, from the provisions of the last two clauses of Article 7, applying to such absences.

RESOLUTIONS.
Mr. Bickel offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That the salary of the janitor of the day and night schools for the present year be paid the same as last year, except the janitor of the 7th ward, who shall receive \$300 per annum.

Resolved, That the compensation of C. C. Wilson be fixed at \$300 for his services for plans, drawings, specifications, &c., for the addition to the Webster school house and for superintending the construction of the building.

Dr. Hupp offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the President and the Clerk of the Board be instructed to take immediate steps for having the Johnson property, in front of the school house door of Washington sub-district, condemned for the use of said Washington sub-district school. Laid on the table.

Resolved, That the shameful nuisance which is so very filthy near to the front door of the Washington sub-district school house should be abated without further delay. Referred to the Health Officer to have it abated.

The bids for furnishing steam heating apparatus for the Second and Third Ward schools were read and referred to the committee Buildings and Grounds. Dr. Logan and Mr. Caldwell were added to the committee.

The Board adjourned until next Tuesday evening, for the purpose of considering the report of the committee.

ADJOURNED.

BRIDGEPORT ITEMS.—Notwithstanding the inclement weather, the ball given last night under the auspices of L. O. M. of Bridgeport was a complete success. A fine band was discoursing sweet strains, and a merry crowd of the youth and beauty of Bridgeport tripped the light fantastic. The hall was given in honor of a new ball. This is a good room for dancing, and we understand a grand "bon-ton" masquerade is to be given in it on Christmas eve. An elegant supper was gotten up by Mr. James, proprietor of the "Riverside."

W. W. Trueman and S. E. Turner are sole agents and manufacturers of a non-explosive supplement for lamp oil of all kinds. It is a complete safeguard against explosions, and we heartily commend it to all who use the dangerous fluid.

Mr. F. C. Robinson, who has been dangerously ill with diphtheria, is now convalescing.

Dr. Jenkins was on the street yesterday.

Deputy Sheriff Cochran was in town yesterday.

North West, the popular young clerk, who has spent the summer in Pittsburgh, has returned, and again his genial face is seen behind the dispensary of J. H. West.

There will be a grand dress ball and oyster supper given by the Hegner Boat Club, at Turner Hall, on Christmas night. All persons desirous of spending a merry Christmas night will find this a splendid opportunity, as every arrangement has been made to warrant a pleasant time.

BY TELEGRAPH.

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.
(By the Western Union Line.
Times Northwest cor. of Main and Monroe Sts.)

CONGRESS.
SENATE.
WASHINGTON, December 22.

MEMORIALS PRESENTED.
Mr. Scott presented a memorial of the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governors of seven States to take steps for the improvement of the Ohio river and its tributaries, calling the attention of Congress to the importance of making appropriations for such improvement. Referred.

Mr. Lewis presented a memorial from clergymen in the District of Columbia asking that church property be exempt from taxation. Referred.

Mr. Sherman moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the bill to provide for the redemption of specie payments reported from the Finance Committee yesterday.

After some discussion the motion was agreed to.

Mr. Pratt submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on Pensions to inquire into the propriety of reporting a bill placing on the pension roll at the rate of \$3 per month the surviving soldiers of the Indian war of 1811; also the widows of such as are dead or were married before the first day of January, 1825. Agreed to.

SPECIAL RESUMPTION.
Mr. Sherman moved that the pending bill for providing a better government for the District of Columbia be laid aside, and that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the bill for the resumption of specie payments, which was agreed to.

Mr. Sherman said that there was a general feeling that Congress should do something. He desired to say that every word and every line of this bill tended toward the resumption of specie payment. He then explained the various provisions of the bill.

The first action provided for the redemption of Fractional Currency, and was a sacrifice of \$55,000,000 per annum on the part of the Government in the coinage of gold. The third provided for banking in the great commercial centers of the country, and the enlargement of the volume of currency in case the volume of the currency demand is increased. The bill also provided for the redemption of the notes to the extent of 80 per cent. of the new notes issued. It provided ample means to maintain the resumption of specie payment.

Legal tenders redeemed were to be re-issued against the bill.

Mr. Sherman said he would leave that as an open question for the future when legal tenders should be reduced to three hundred millions. One or two Congresses would pass before that time, he approved the bill because every portion of it tended to specie payment.

Mr. Schurz said Congress ought to make the bill as clear as possible. The Senator (Sherman) knew from the Treasurer that if a loop hole was left the Treasurer might re-issue thirty or forty millions as he had done before. The first and second sections were all right, but the third was weak. The bill and in four years would increase in national currency would not be over ten millions and retirement of greenbacks not over eight millions. The panic was the result of overtrading and extravagance until at last the bubble burst, and then came retrenchment and economy. The history of the country showed the revival of business in less than four years after a panic, but time, honesty, economy and retrenchment would not bring business in motion and make the country prosperous. It could not be done by tinkering or by bills which omitted everything and contained nothing. He offered an amendment with which attached he was willing to vote for the bill, otherwise he would vote against it.

Mr. Sherman said he could not consent to the insertion of the word "destroy" after the word "redeem" in the third section.

Mr. Bayard hoped the country would notice the answer of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, who declined to allow the bill to be amended. The Treasury had been governed as it was without law, and money redeemed would be reissued without limitation. It seemed to him to be a matter of honest business. Mr. Schurz moved to strike out 1873 as the time for a return to specie payments and insert 1877, which was rejected.

Mr. Hamilton moved that after the 4th of July, 1876, neither gold and silver should be a legal tender for the payment of debts contracted thereafter.

Mr. Stevenson said he was opposed to the amendment because he should not know whether he was voting for contraction or expansion, he was unwilling to leave it in the power of any Secretary to expand currency at his pleasure. He had great faith in the present Secretary but would not leave such power in the hands of any Secretary either Republican or Democrat.

Mr. Schurz said he would vote for the bill in spite of its defects, because it contained a pledge to return to specie payment in 1876, and members voting for the bill would do all in their power to make the pledge good.

He thought the bill would leave the currency of the country in the same condition in which it found it, but he would offer no factions opposition to it. He then moved its recommittal to the Committee on Finance, which was rejected.

The bill was then read the third time and passed—yeas 33, nays 14.

ADJOURNED.

HOUSE.
On motion of Mr. Wilson, Senate bill to enable the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to proceed with its jury business was taken from the Speaker's table and passed.

Mr. Dawes presented a medical certificate that Richard B. Irwin, witness in the Pacific Mail investigation, is not in a physical condition to present himself at the bar of the House, or be subjected to any mental excitement. He remarked that the Committee of Ways and Means under no circumstances would incur the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring the witness before the House at present, unless the House should otherwise order.

Mr. Dawes then offered a resolution authorizing the Committee of Ways and Means to hold sessions in New York in connection with the investigation. Adopted.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Poland, of Vermont in the chair, on the naval appropriation bill.

Mr. Danson, from the Committee on Printing, reported a resolution for printing 250,000 copies of the agricultural report of 1873, and 150,000 copies of the report of 1872. He stated that the former would cost about forty-two cents per copy, and the latter forty cents. Passed.

A VENTILATION OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.
Mr. Burleigh moved to reduce the item for contingent expenses of the navy. After discussion, the motion was rejected.

In the course of the discussion Mr. Cresser assailed the administration of the Navy Department, particularly in connection with running navy yards for political purposes. He declared that the course of that department had brought the Government and the Republican party into contempt. He charged that the Secretary of the Navy was daily and nightly the companion of contractors and jobbers, who make millions out of the Government, and who were constantly swindling the Government. He denounced the appropriation of five million dollars made at the last session under the score of a war with Spain as one of the greatest frauds that was ever practiced. He said that if it were to take a microscope and examine the navy to-day, he could not see where one dollar of that five million went to. The administration of the Navy was defended by Mr. Hale, of Maine, and Archer and Good, of Connecticut.

Mr. Hale recognized the fact that the Brooklyn Navy yard had been a sink of political corruption for many years, but although it was in his district his election was independent of it, and no man inside or outside of that Navy yard had any claim whatever upon him. On the contrary a perfectly respectable man had been taken from every member of the Cabinet but one, intended to assist that person in carrying the Congressional election against him (Chittenden), and there was no question but that men were planted in Brooklyn Navy yard for political purposes. Those men were not there now although there stood upon the stockroom of the yard a large number of barrels, because there was no man to cover it, there was no work going on there now except repairs of the Tennessee.

Mr. Averill defended the Secretary of Navy from aspersions cast on him by Mr. Hale, and recommended abolition of all minor Navy yards and the establishment of one great navy yard at League Island. Finally the Committee rose and the House passed the bill.

ALABAMA PETITION.
The Speaker presented a communication from the President, with a petition from the colored citizens of Alabama in regard to the troubles in that State. Referred to the select committee on that subject.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.
The Speaker presented the applications of a large number of members for leave of absence—largely a number that Garfield and Eldridge expressed doubts as to whether a quorum would be left if the applications were all granted.

CHINESE BILL.
Mr. Page introduced a bill excluding Chinese immigrants from the benefits of the Naturalization act. Referred. Adjourned.

WASHINGTON.
CONFIRMED.
WASHINGTON, December 22.—The Senate has confirmed the following nominations: Thomas H. Harris, Pension Agent, Wheeling, W. Va.; Postmaster, W. B. Sheriff, Fall, Illinois; M. M. Murdoch, Washita, Kansas.

ACCEPTS THE INVITATION.
The Secretary of the Interior to-day received from the State Department copies of the official letters announcing the acceptance by the British government of the invitation of the United States to participate in the Centennial.